

being despoiled of everything they had in the world... All I can say is that if that transaction, instead of being submitted to a tribunal of resident magistrates at Mitchell's... I should rather think that if there is anybody to whom the cry of shame applies to the cry of I should think that if there is anybody who has reason to blush at the name of Mitchell...

well I certainly am not going into any recital of the miserable little prison tortures and indignities that were employed to give us pain and humiliation, and what is much more important, to smother the character of the Irish representatives in the eyes of the people of England and elsewhere. I think we can afford to pass these things by. (Loud cheer.)

A FATALITY AND LOSTOME INSLA-CATION. The leathery insinuation that I sheltered myself under the plea of illness from the enforcement of prison discipline—a statement as to which I challenge the right hon. gentleman to appeal to any one of the three official doctors who examined me for one time, I won't say of foundation, but even of countenance for such an assertion. (Loud cheer.)

A GROSS LIE. Upon that gentle and tender sex to associate with the production of such a letter as that in such a spirit. I pass that by without further comment. I have been glad to learn since I left prison—and I feel that it is no longer necessary for us to defend ourselves in the eyes of the English people, and I believe that there is not a Tory of the fifth magnitude who really in his heart believes for one instant that we are such creatures as to cry out against a more sentence of imprisonment or its consequences, except those like the hon. gentleman member for South Tyrone, who stated that we attempted to set up a distinction between members of Parliament and peasants—our comrades, our true patriots, who have been convicted under the Act. Sir, there is a shadow, now, not a title of foundation for that hear, hear. We have claimed nothing for ourselves as members of Parliament that we do not claim equally for every man who is convicted under the summary clauses of the Act. If that man is a criminal there is no reason why he should not be tried before the ordinary tribunals and convicted (hear, hear) This is the only thing I shall say upon the matter—that you are perfectly well

come to treat us to all the punishments that would have been sufficient for the very vilest crimes in society—the plank bed, bread and water diet, twenty-four hours of solitary confinement, deprived of books, writing materials, of visits, and so forth—you are perfectly welcome to heap every material and physical discomfort and privation upon us, if that is your generous and chivalrous treatment of political prisoners. You will never hear a murmur or a word of complaint from our lips if you stick to that, but the moment you go further and treat us as badly as the worst criminals in society—when you go further and try and subject us to

MORAL TORTURE from which criminals are altogether exempt—when you ask us to make open and active and voluntary acknowledgments of our kinship and equality with criminals, then we say, no; we will die first (hear, hear). And you will have to learn the definition between your criminal classes and Irish political prisoners, even if you have to fall back on the common law and the verdict to certain that distinction (Opposition cheer). I will say nothing more about it. I will pass on to the results, and I will only say that if any one has reason to blush for them, I do not think it is we (hear, hear). I hope I am not doing the House (loud Home Rule cheer). The only excuse I can plead is that I do not think I shall have an opportunity very soon of claiming their attention (renewed cheer); but I should like to ask before I sit down—where is all this to end? what object is attained? If this is to go on forever and forever, what object can it ever possibly accomplish except misery to a weak people and worry and eternal shame to yourselves? (Cheer.) Is it the object of the right hon. gentleman to convert the Irish people (laughter), or is it to drag them (laughter)—to drag them out of aspirations which are as deeply lodged in the hearts of a million men as the blood in their veins? (Loud and prolonged cheer.) Does the right hon. gentleman in his wildest hour imagine that he has made one single covert throughout the length and breadth of Ireland by his conduct? I suppose the right hon. gentleman will reply by-and-by. I ask him, can he name as much as one single individual who has been stamped with a stigma whom he has really frightened as the result of all the terrific powers which he has been wielding in Ireland during the last six months? I put to the hon. gentleman opposite to remember that what he has done is to have passed this Crimes Act with which to trample over us. I remember well the declaration of the Chief Secretary, the Exchequer (I think it was) to be

A DECLARATION TO THE NATION. The Government, speaking through the mouth of the Chief Secretary, put it to the hon. gentleman opposite to remember that what he has done is to have passed this Crimes Act with which to trample over us. I remember well the declaration of the Chief Secretary, the Exchequer (I think it was) to be

THE CASE OF LORD DE FREYNE, in county Roscommon. Just as this Act was passing Lord De Freyne's agent, Mr. MacDougall, wrote:— "Spot the men in your district who are to be sent to prison and work. We will see that the Coercion Bill has become law, whether we won't make them honest men." (Laughter.) It turned out that the dishonest men were Mr MacDougall and his master. (Cheer.) Mr MacDougall had confidence in the Crimes Bill and in the right hon. gentleman last autumn. Where is Mr MacDougall today? He is gone, (cheer), he is dismissed, and everything that the tenants were then demanding has been conceded. (Renewed cheer.) It was the very day after I came out of prison that I learnt that the new agent had had an interview with two of the most prominent of the campaigners of the estate, and that he not only agreed to the tenant's terms, but that he agreed to refund a sum of £1,700 which Mr MacDougall had dishonestly extorted from them on a portion of the estate before the Plan of Campaign was started. (Cheer.) This money was wrung from the tenants by sheer terrorism by serving 150 writs of ejectment against the tenants before they had the protection of the Plan of Campaign; and now, such is the force of the Plan, with the Crimes Act in full vigor, that this landlord has not only been obliged to concede the tenants' terms, but he has been

OBLIGED TO REDEMPT THE MONEY that was unjustly and dishonestly wrung from these poor people while they were defenceless, and has been obliged to pay every shilling of the costs of 150 ejectment writs. (Cheer.) Now, sir, that is Lord De Freyne's impartial opinion as to the result of his did his attempt to get after the Plan of Campaign, after six months. (Laughter.) Now, I will quote another instance—the famous estate management of Bodyke, which horrified England last summer, and for which her Majesty's Government provided no remedy whatever! What is the result? Last year Col O'Callaghan, one of the most hardened racketeers, and the most desperate fighting men besides, in Ireland, refused to accept £370 for 1 1/2 years' rent of 37 tenants. He has not accepted £1,000 to wipe off two years' rent of 72 tenants, after incurring some £500 in legal expenses. (Cheer and laughter.) That is to say, after losing all his money, and after costing the British taxpayer over £1,000 for expenses for his evictions, (hear, hear), he has now come to the conclusion that the Crimes Act is "no good," and he has struck his flag to the Plan of Campaign upon far worse terms to him than he would have got before the Crimes Act was passed. (Cheer.) Let me read a letter which came this very day from the principal man on the estate of my hon. friend, the member for East Mayo. The Rev Father Peter Murphy says— "My dear Mr Dillon—A thousand thanks for your cheque. You have acted thoughtfully for us, and we have reason to thank and be grateful to you. What pleases me most of all is that our victory over Col O'Callaghan is complete, and approved of all who understand the matter fully. I have no objection to your making a purchase, and he would, I think, sell on any terms rather than yield to the plan, but we absolutely refused to purchase as long as the rope remained around our necks. We would not entertain the idea of purchase at all until we had secured the holding, and free as the mountain air to meet on equal terms. The next sale is not to be asked until the end of June; reductions conceded to the different degrees of poverty were 15 per cent upwards to 25, 30, 40. The costs of evictions were £2450, and at £150. He said he should pay the agent £50 out of the £1,000 given him, and that he was paying 5 per cent for money borrowed besides. I have received a very great number of letters congratulating us wonderfully, thank God, and all our friends, and you amongst them." (Cheer.) This is the way in which the right hon. gentleman has beaten the power of the plan of campaign. These are the results of the plan of campaign, and we are all gratefully adhering to that plan of campaign. What other lessons can be taught them? The tenants, the poor, and every man who was not a book possession of his holding and who was not a great renter, were all in a state of rebellion. The right hon. gentleman has triumphed. Cromwell has not done this. It is this that, thanks to the plan of campaign, and to the right hon. gentleman, they are

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